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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, ORR
MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1959
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

A. Accomplishments and Coordination Activities

1. The general level of activity in the Geographic Research Area rose sharply during the month, reflecting both an apparent long-term upward trend in the Area and the increase in business that is normal for February. Five projects dealt with Soviet geodesy and Antarctica.

to develop during the month are studies of significant new foreign activities in Antarctica; an article on the distribution of the Soviet fishing fleet; and a Research Aid on the internal administrative divisions of Indonesia.

2. The Cartography Division completed 97 maps and charts

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[redacted], a comment on [redacted] memorandum is currently under preparation. These meetings followed a detailed briefing on the research and support mission and capabilities of the Geographic Area given for [redacted] earlier in the month.

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6. Chief/G and Chief, D/GL met with the SA for Planning, DD/I, and with representatives of the Military Services to protest the change in status of Soviet Bloc mapping from Priority #1 to Priority #2 on the IPC list. An attempt will be made to reverse the change at the next IPC meeting. [The IPC placed Soviet Bloc mapping in Priority #1 at its meeting during the first week in March.]

7. By direction of Chief/G, the Near East-Africa and Far East Branches of D/GG have begun the development of informal Agency-wide committees to exchange information on topics of intelligence interest in Africa and Southeast Asia. The committees will operate in a manner similar to the existing China and Satellites Committees, but will be concerned with subjects of broader scope and may be modified to permit attendance by personnel from other USIB agencies.

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8. [redacted] Geography Division, accompanied the DCI and the DD/I to meetings of the Operations Coordinating Board and the Planning Board, NSC, respectively.

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9. Chief, D/GC, contributed considerable time during the month to efforts by the Executive Committee of the Board on Geographic Names to analyze and implement the work of the Board in the light of recent Department of Interior directives that have transferred domestic names activities from the Office of Geography to the U.S. Geological Survey.

10. Chapter IX Subcommittee proposals concerning changes in the production of Sections 19 and the Section 19 portions of the Chapter I Annuals were approved by the NIS Committee on 17 February. These changes will provide a more realistic balance between workload and deadlines in this portion of the NIS.

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